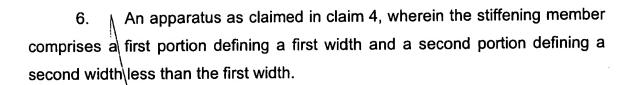
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1	(1/b)	1. An apparatus, comprising:  an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion
_	$\frac{1}{2}$	an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion
	3	and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen
	4	extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;
	5	a steering wire having a distal portion operably connected to the
	6	distal portion of the elongate body; and
	7	a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the
	8	elongate body.
	1	2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lumen comprises a
4	2	central lumen, the apparatus further comprising:
այան Կուր կուր	3	a stiffening member lumen offset from the central lumen, at least a
: = =	4	portion of the stiffening member being located within the stiffening member
	5	lumen.
ŧ	1	3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lumen comprises a
	2	central lumen and the stiffening member comprises a plurality of stiffening
	3	members, the apparatus further comprising:
	4	a plurality of stiffening member lumens respectively offset from the
	5	central lumen, at least a portion of the stiffening members being located within
	6	respective stiffening member lumens.

An apparatus as glaimed in claim 1, wherein the elongate body defines a perimeter and the stiffening member comprises an elongate member extending only partially around the perimeter. 3

5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member defines a substantially constant width.



- 7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member comprises a proximal portion defining a proximal portion width and a distal portion defining a distal portion width less than the proximal portion width.
- 8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member comprises a first portion defining a first width, a second portion defining a second width less than the first width and third portion defining a third width substantially equal to the first width, and the second portion is located between the first and third portions.
- 9. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member comprises a relatively long first portion defining a first width, a relatively short second portion defining a second width less than the first width, a relatively short third portion defining a third width substantially equal to the first width, and a relatively long fourth portion defining a fourth width less than the first width.
- 10. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member includes a prebent portion.
- 11. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member defines a constant thickness.
- 12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stiffening member defines a variable thickness.
- 13. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stiffening member comprises a coil portion and a elongate portion.



1	14. An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the coil portion and
2	elongate portion are secured to one another.
1	15. An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the coil portion and
2	elongate portion are integrally formed.
1	16. An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the stiffening
2	member comprises a tubular member with a plurality of notches.
1	17. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lumen comprises a
2	central lumen.
1	18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:
2	a steering wire lumen offset from the central lumen and at least a
3	portion of the steering wire is located within the steering wire lumen.
1	19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proximal portion of
2	the elongate body is relatively stiff and the distal portion of the elongate body is
3	relatively flexible.
1	20. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
2	an anchoring member as sociated with the distal portion of the
3	elongate body and secured to the steering wire.
1	21. An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein at least a portion of
2	the anchoring member is substantially radio paque.
1	22. An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the anchoring
2	member is located within the wall of the elongate body between the inner surface

and the outer surface.



		·
	1	23. An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the stiffening
	2	member defines a distal end secured to the anchoring member.
SI	ubab	24. An apparatus as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:
1	2 /	an anti-tear device associated with the stiffening member.
	/	<b>\</b>
	1	25. An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the stiffening
	2	member defines a proximal end secured to the anti-tear device.
	1	26. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
	2	a catheter supporting at least one of a diagnostic element and a
	3	therapeutic element located within the lumen and slidable relative thereto.
ū	1	27. An apparatus, comprising:
	2	an elongate body proximal portion defining a lumen extending
F	3 🐃	therethrough, a distal end and a proximal portion stiffness;
U	4	an elongate body distal portion associated with the distal end of the
a Z	5	elongate body proximal portion, the elongate body distal portion defining a distal
	6	end, a proximal end, a lumen extending therethrough, a length from the distal
	7	end to the proximal end, and a perimeter, and including at least first and second
	8	distal members that together form the elongate body distal portion, the first distal
Familia -	9	member defining a first distal member stiffness and the second distal member
	10	defining a second distal member stiffness less than the first distal member
	11	stiffness; and
	12	a steering wire baving a distal portion operably connected to the
	13	elongate body distal portion.
	1	28. An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the first distal
	2	member stiffness and the second distal member stiffness are both less than the

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elongate body proximal portion stiffness.

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second lumen.

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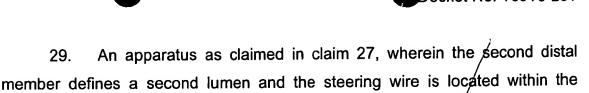
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- An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the first and second 30. distal members are substantially semi-circular in cross-sectional shape.
- An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the first and second 31. distal members occupy substantially equal segments of the elongate body distal portion perimeter over the elongate body distal portion length.
- An apparatus as claimed in claim 27/, wherein the first and second 32. distal members occupy respective segments of the elongate body distal portion perimeter that vary in size over the length of the/distal portion.
- An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the first distal 33. member occupies a segment of the elongate body distal portion perimeter that varies in size over the elongate body distal portion length such that the first distal member occupies substantially all of the perimeter at one end of the elongate body distal portion and occupies substantially none of the perimeter at the other end of the elongate body distal portion/
- An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the first distal 34. member occupies a segment of the elongate body distal portion perimeter that increases in size over a first portion of the elongate body distal portion length and decreases in size over a second portion of the elongate body distal portion length.
- An apparatus as/claimed in claim 27, wherein the elongate body 35. distal portion includes a third/distal member and the third distal member defines a stiffness less than the first distal member stiffness and greater than the second distal member stiffness.



- 36. An apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein the first distal member is located distally of the second and third distal members and the third distal member is located distally of the second distal member.
- 37. An apparatus as claimed in claim 35, the first, second and third distal members occupy respective segments of the elongate body distal portion perimeter and the segments vary in size over the elongate body distal portion length.
- 38. An apparatus as claimed in claim 35 wherein the first, second and third distal members define respective lengths and occupy respective segments of the elongate body distal portion perimeter and the respective sizes of the segments remain substantially constant over the respective lengths distal members.
- 39. An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the first distal member comprises a pair of first distal members respectively located on opposite sides of the second distal member.
- 40. An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the second distal member comprises a wall defining the elongate body distal portion lumen and the first distal member is located within the wall.
- 41. An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the first distal member extends substantially from the proximal end of the elongate body distal portion to the distal end of the elongate body distal portion.
- 42. An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the wall includes an inner surface and an outer surface and the first distal member is located in spaced relation to the inner surface.

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